

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-02 /029 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3898

CINCPAC HONO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 23418

FOL TEL FROM SONGKHLA DATED 6 NOV SENT ACTION BANGKOK
REPEATED FOR UR INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 199

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PIN TH MY

SUBJ: SCHOOLS OPENING IN MUSLIM SOUTH

REF: SONGKHLA 198

1. SCHOOLS ARE NOW OPEN IN DISTRICT CAPITALS OF YALA,
PATTANI AND NARATHIWAT PROVINCES. OTHER SCHOOLS WHERE
MILITARY AND POLICE CAN DEFEND TEACHERS WILL OPEN NOVEMBER 10.
ALL SCHOOLS SET TO REOPEN NOVEMBER 17, BUT STILL UNCLEAR
WHETHER RTG CAN GUARANTEE PROTECTION FOR TEACHERS IN
REMOTE AREAS OR NOT.

2. PEACEKEEPING DIRECTOR LT. GEN. SAN CHITBATIMA HAS FOUR
COMPANIES OF RTA IN MUSLIM PROVINCES NOW AND IS USING LOCAL
POLICE AS WELL. ARMY IS PLANNING OPERATIONS, BUT SAN USES
POLICE CHIEF TO SIGN OFF ON ALL ORDERS TO MAINTAIN IMAGE
THAT OPERATIONS ARE CIVILIAN AND NOT MILITARY.

3. SAN'S PR MEASURES ARE MOVING VERY WELL HERE. HE APPEARS
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ON LOCAL TV NEARLY EVERY NIGHT, CHARGING BY HELICOPTER FROM

ONE DISTRICT TO ANOTHER, PATTING MUSLIM BOYS ON THE HEAD,
STRAINING TO FOLLOW TERRAIN MAPS OF THE FAR SOUTH AS WELL
AS FOCUSING ON THE SERIOUS CPT PROBLEM IN SURAT. ALL THIS
ACCOMPANIED BY BEST MARTIAL MUSIC. WHILE MUCH OF FOREGOING
IS MERE MOVEMENT, IT DOES IMPROVE MORALE. PEOPLE IN SOUTH
ARE FINALLY GETTING IDEA THAT RTG IS CONCERNED AND MIGHT
BE DOING SOMETHING TO IMPROVE SITUATION. IF SAN CAN
EFFECT CHANGE IN ATMOSPHERE IN FAR SOUTH, HE WILL BE RAISING
HIS OWN PRESTIGE IN NATION AS WELL AS LOCALLY. ASSUME
HE WELL AWARE OF THIS ALSO. CASTRODALE
UNQUOTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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